Lebanon

Israeli Raids, Movements — Israeli aircraft attacked "terrorist" targets in the Bhamdun and 'Ayn al-Jadidah areas on 21 February, the IDF spokesman stated in an announcement broadcast by IDF Radio. The raid followed a 19 February attack on targets in Bhamdun, Hammana, and Ad-Damur, which was likewise announced by the IDF spokesman in a statement reported by the radio. A military spokesman cited by Damascus radio said Syrian air defenses "confronted" the attacking Israeli planes in the 19 February raid, which Jerusalem radio said was intended to demonstrate that Israel will not allow "terrorists" to resettle in areas vacated by the IDF.

Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon carried numerous reports on Israeli troop movements north of Sidon toward Beirut on 20 February and claimed that Israeli warships bombarded positions south of the capital. An Israeli spokesman cited by Voice of Lebanon denied reports of a naval bombardment and a landing operation, as did an Amal Movement source quoted by Beirut radio, as well as the clandestine opposition radios Voice of the Mountain and Voice of Arab Lebanon. Nevertheless, the Voice of Lebanon subsequently maintained that Israeli vehicles had approached the outskirts of Beirut and that Israeli gunboats and helicopters were seen off the Ash-Shuf coast on 21 February, providing reinforcements for the Israeli brigade deployed between the Al-Awwali River and Ad-Damur. Voice of the Mountain confirmed that an Israeli force moved northward along the coastal road in the Al-Kharrub area on 20 February while Damascus television said "observers" link the IDF movements with a possible Israeli military operation to "abort" the victory scored by the Lebanese nationalist forces.

Diplomacy — Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri met with President Amin al-Jumayyil in Beirut on 20 February and subsequently left for Damascus to join Crown Prince 'Abdallah, Beirut radio reported. Voice of Lebanon said the Saudi envoy gave Al-Jumayyil new proposals to solve the crisis which include cancellation of the 17 May agreement with Israel and treating the Israeli and Syrian military presence "in different ways."

The new proposals followed Syria's rejection of the eight-point proposals as an "obvious deception." The Syrian stand, announced by an "information source" in a statement broadcast by Damascus television on 17 February, viewed Al-Jumayyil's proposals as "an implementation and not a cancellation" of the 17 May agreement because they call for measures to guarantee Israel's security and for the simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces. After conveying the proposals approved by Al-Jumayyil to President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal admitted in remarks reported by SPA that Al-Asad had rejected the "Lebanese plan" but had submitted alternative proposals which Saudi Arabia would convey to the Lebanese Government. In a related development, Crown Prince 'Abdallah arrived in Syria on 20 February and discussed the Lebanese situation in a closed meeting with Al-Asad, according to Damascus radio and television.

Earlier, the Syrian president held a lengthy meeting with Amal leader Nabih Birri in Damascus while other Lebanese opposition and Palestinian dissident leaders also held intensive talks with Syrian officials, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Birri subsequently traveled to northern Lebanon for talks with northern opposition leaders Rashid Karami and Sulayman Franjiyah, stating afterward in remarks broadcast by Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon that he views Al-Jumayyil's eight-point proposal as a "miniature 17 May agreement." Birri also said security in West Beirut should be maintained by the Internal Security Forces rather than by militia factions, according to Beirut radio. On the other hand, Radio Monte Carlo said Birri told journalists that Amal and PSP forces will preserve security in West Beirut and in the Palestinian camps, where there is consequently no need for a Palestinian military presence. Both Birri and PSP leader Walid Junblatt reaffirmed their call for President al-Jumayyil's resignation, the radio noted.

In Beirut President al-Jumayyil said in remarks broadcast by Radio Free Lebanon on 17 February that his latest proposals — "King Fahd's plan" — could allow Lebanon to "go beyond" the agreement with Israel and reach a "new package" that would ensure the withdrawal of foreign forces and allow the formation of a broad-based government of national reconciliation. The following day, in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, Al-Jumayyil promised that the government would investigate possible "excesses" by the Army in the southern suburb but warned that the main issue to be discussed is now the survival of the country, which is "dying."

Israeli Position — Israel will "never accept a unilateral abrogation of an agreement signed by us and another country" and will consequently not accept abrogation of the May 1983 agreement with Lebanon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio on 19 February.

Iran-Iraq War

A statement issued by the chief of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces and carried by Tehran radio on 18 February announced that Iran will suspend attacks on Iraqi cities "for the time being" in order to evaluate the sincerity of Iraq's declaration not to attack Iranian residential areas. Should Iraq resume such attacks, however, Iran will once again respond "in kind." This conditional moratorium is not applicable to the battlefronts, where Iranian forces will continue fighting until "final victory," the statement concluded.

According to Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, this announcement "neutralized" Iraqi allegations that Iran was unwilling to reciprocate in ceasing attacks on each other's cities, IRNA reported. An Iraqi military spokesman, commenting on

this statement in remarks reported by Baghdad radio, questioned why attacks on Iraqi civilian targets were not stopped immediately after the Iraqi announcement to halt residential shelling. If Iran is serious about this stand, it will be willing to accept international supervision to prevent violations. Rejection of such supervision would indicate Iran's intention to continue its "hostile trend under false propaganda pretexts" and continued enemy strikes against Iraqi cities will force Iraq to defend the security of its people, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, in the Val-Fajr V operational theater, an Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 19 February reported the destruction of Iraq's 4th Mountain Infantry Brigade and the "crushing" of more than half of the 50th Armored Brigade of the 12th Army Division in operations which resulted in 1,500 enemy casualties. Six more Iraqi counterattacks were defeated, the communique added. However, the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique for 19 February, carried by Baghdad radio, reported that Iranian forces had suffered "heavy losses" in men, weapons, and equipment with a "large number" of men killed or wounded.

An Iranian commander in the Val-Fajr operations, in a 17 February interview reported by Tehran radio, said Iranian forces had succeeded in taking control of the strategic Tib-Badrah road, recapturing a number of important heights, and controlling several important waterways including the Chenguleh River. Iranian forces are now only 40 km from the Tigris River, the commander added.

Meanwhile, thousands of Iranian volunteers are being dispatched to the war fronts to deal the "last blow" to the Iraqi regime, Tehran radio reported. President 'Ali Khamene'i, in a 20 February speech reported by Tehran radio, said Iranian forces are awaiting the signal to deliver this blow and that Iran "will soon complete" its task.

A Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry spokesman denied reports that Kuwait is in the process of exerting new efforts to mediate between Iran and Iraq through peaceful means, KUNA reported. A Kuwaiti envoy went to Tehran to deliver a reply message to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati from his Kuwaiti counterpart, KUNA announced. During the 2-day visit, Velayati acquainted the envoy with Iran's stance toward the war. Meanwhile, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri met with the Libyan ambassador to Iran on 20 February, Tehran radio reported, to affirm his country's willingness to help Iran fight against its enemies.

Iran and Iraq exchanged two diplomats in Turkey, Ankara ANATOLIA reported citing "sources" in Istanbul. Iranian and Iraqi consular officials refused to comment on the exchange.

Jordan-Libya

Jordan must "radically reassess" its relations with Libya following the burning and plundering of the Jordanian Embassy in Libya by demonstrators abetted by Libyan security police, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat told the Jordanian Senate on 20 February in a speech broadcast by Amman radio. Although Libyan officials have apologized for the incident, 'Ubaydat said, Jordan holds the Libyan authorities responsible for planning and guiding the seizure of the building since they organized the demonstration and their security police joined the crowds storming the embassy. He added that the Jordanian Government will make a "final decision" on its relations after the return of the Jordanian Ambassador to Amman on 21 February. Meanwhile, The Amman papers *AR-RA'Y* and *JORDAN TIMES* urged the government to break relations with Libya.

JANA and Tripoli radio reported that Palestinian and other Arab "masses" demonstrated outside the Jordanian Embassy to protest King Husayn's recent visit to the United States. Although Libyan security men tried to prevent the demonstrators from getting too close to the embassy, JANA said, the thousands of demonstrators achieved their objective and burned the Jordanian flag.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Amman on 21 February, the Amman paper *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* reported. Meanwhile, 'Arafat has accepted an invitation to visit the PRC in March, Tunis radio noted citing WAFA.

In another development, PLO International Department chief Faruq Qaddumi arrived in Damascus and held talks with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Although Kuwait's *AL-QABAS*, cited by KUNA, reported that Qaddumi's visit was aimed at restoring PLO relations with Syria, a Palestinian source quoted by Radio Monte Carlo said Qaddumi was on a private visit and had no intention of attempting to reconcile President al-Asad and 'Arafat.

Israel

Jordan Policy — Israel has "moderated" its opposition to the establishment of a Jordanian strike force as a result of U.S. guarantees that the force will not be used against Israel, Jerusalem radio reported. Nevertheless, Israel has informed the United States that it continues to oppose a separate U.S. arms deal with Jordan involving the supply of Stinger antiaircraft missiles, the radio noted.

West Bank — Supporters and opponents of Yasir 'Arafat clashed in "violent brawls" at An-Najah College in Nabulus on 19 February, according to Jerusalem radio.

Sudan

The Army killed 30 of the "outlaws" who attacked a Nile steamer on 14 February, the deputy commander in chief of Sudan's Armed Forces announced in a statement reported by SUNA. He also indicated that the Army is strictly guarding Sudan's oilfields and the Jonglei Canal project.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Karmal Chairs 19 February Meeting on Tribal Areas

LD201953 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, yesterday chaired an important meeting at the headquarters of the PDPA Central Committee on strengthening and developing economic, social, and cultural services in tribal areas. The meeting was attended by party and state figures.

Babrak Karmal instructed the responsible party and state organs to pay serious and prompt attention to the development of the tribal areas' economy and culture and to take firm measures to halt completely rebel intervention from Pakistani soil.

Babrak Karmal said the tribal areas are the forward trench of all the tribes and nationalities of Afghanistan against interventions by imperialism and that these areas and their inhabitants, as a firm trench, should become stronger in the interests of all the brave people of Afghanistan.

Babrak Karmal said that the interests of all noble tribes and nationalities of Pashtun and Afghanistan have linked together in the humane and patriotic process of the April Revolution in such a way that the revolution can guarantee with full confidence the equality, brotherhood, and unity of the people of Afghanistan.

Babrak Karmal expressed confidence that all the toiling masses of Afghanistan will welcome the idea of strengthening the tribal areas in order to repulse foreign interventions, and the DRA will play its patriotic part in implementing this demand of the people.

Keshtmand Meets With Paktia Elders, Tribal Leaders

LD200601 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Kabul, February 19, BAKHTAR — Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand,chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, held a meeting here with the elders and tribal leaders of Khowst District of Paktia Province yesterday.

In his speech, S.A. Keshtmand expressed his gratitude for the full support of the Khowst residents to the policies of the PDPA and the revolutionary government of the DRA.

A few representatives of the Khowst people declared their readiness to participate in the defence of the gains of the April revolution and also thanked the revolutionary state and the PDPA for the assistance and attention paid to their wellbeing.

KYODO Cites 'Brutalities' Against Civilians

OW170151 Tokyo KYODO in English 0125 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 16 KYODO — Soviet-Afghan forces massacredscores of women, children and old men in three separate operations in Nangarhar Province Monday, AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) news agency reported Thursday.

The agency, which has strong links with the guerrilla group Maulvi Yunus Khalis, quoted survivors and injured persons regarding the brutalities of the Soviet-Afghan forces against the civilian population.

In the first incident in Nasro village, 15 kilometers west of the capital of the Nangarhar Province, 27 aged men, women and children were gunned down by a firing squad. There are only fifty houses in the village and all remaining inhabitants fled, the agency said. The action against the town's residents is believed to be in retaliation for recent intensified resistance activities in Nasro-Sarubi area.

Resistance sources in the border city of Peshawar said the Soviets were resorting to brutalities to put fear in the heart of the native people about punitive actions that can be taken against them for supporting the Afghan guerrillas. Another objective could be to depopulate the area to make guerrilla operations difficult.

The same day another Soviet-Afghan force attacked Qatrghu village 15 kilometers south-east of Jalalabad, the provincial capital. Since people in the village had prior information about the impending attack, women, children and all the young men were evacuated. Infuriated Soviet soldiers, however, seized 12 old men, lined them up and gunned them down in the centre of the village. One old man was literally cut to pieces to horrify the people, the agency claimed, quoting people reaching Peshawar.

A group of people taking refuge in a karez (under ground water system) was burnt alive with gasoline when efforts to flush them out by throwing grenades failed.

At about the same time, two small villages about 30 kilometers east of Jalalabad were attacked by a Soviet contingent aided by Afghan scouts. In the ensuing fight between the attackers and Afghan resistance, 15 villagers and Afghan "freedom fighters" were killed.

Numerous reports during recent months have talked about Soviet efforts to entrench themselves in the border areas to choke the routes frequently used by the Afghan guerrillas to sneak in and out of Afghanistan. The most recent brutalities seem to be part of the same strategy to force the natives to vacate the border areas.

Karachi Reports on Fighting in Shomali Area

BK190920 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have intensified their resistance against the new operations launched by the Soviet-Karmal forces in the Shomali area. At least 39 Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed and more than 100 injured by the mujahidin. A total of 13 mujahidin lost their lives. The mujahidin also damaged a number of tanks, armored vehicles, and other military vehicles in encounters around Guzdarra, (Faras), Qarya Taj Mohammad, and Shakar Darra towns in Kabul Province.

Rebel Leader on Mujahidin 'Differences,' Refugees

PM171100 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 11-17 Feb 84 pp 22-23

[Interview with ('Abd al-Latif Rabbani), leader of Islamic Society, by Nura Fakhuri in Faqirabad — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: I have heard of major differences among the Afghan mujahidin. What, in your opinion, are the causes of these differences since all the parties are fighting for the liberation of Afghanistan?

Answer: I believe that the differences you hear about are not as considerable as you make them out to be. I do not deny that there are differences. This is natural in any war. Even in wars between regular armies, differences occur. In Afghanistan, we have been at war with the communists and agents of Moscow since the Mohammad Daud coup. The divisions began 2 years after that coup. The Afghan people are hard and firm by nature. The background of the previous regime, tribal disputes, and personal differences played a major part, but the sincere mujahidin leaders are making serious efforts. All these problems are beginning to resemble a Byzantine argument. We are supposed to be concentrating on the struggle against a ferocious enemy reputed never to leave a country it occupies.

Question: The organization or increase of work inside appears to be in conflict with the exodus of Afghan refugees to Pakistan and Iran. The number of refugees is close to 5 million, which is more than one-quarter of the Afghan population. What in your opinion is the solution to this problem?

Answer: The problem of the refugees is serious and it threatens the struggle and the mujahidin. The Soviet enemy is well aware of this point. That is why it pursues a scorched earth policy in Afghanistan. It burns agricultural crops, kills people, and wreaks havoc in the villages. So an Afghan finds himself compelled to seek refuge abroad, in the liberated areas inside Afghanistan, or in the caves and valleys. The problem in these areas is that food is is not available and life is very difficult. At present, we are preventing many people from leaving certain areas, especially the tense northern areas, because vacating these areas means their subsequent occupation by the Soviets. As you know, the aim of the Soviets is to clear the people out of the northern areas close to their borders so that they can control these areas. The problem facing the Afghan people there is air attacks. They have been used to fighting Russian tanks and soldiers on the ground. We are now thinking about providing air and antiaircraft cover for the defense of these towns. Some refugees have, in fact, returned to the liberated areas such as (Baktya), Konar, and Orgun.

Question: Why do you not use the air force or ask your allies and friends to supply you with such weapons?

Answer: Whom do you mean by allies and friends?

Question: The United States and the Islamic states — Pakistan and the Arab states.

Answer: First of all, it is wrong to say that the United States is our ally. The United States has never been our ally. It is one of the two rival superpowers competing for control of the region's peoples and states. Of course, the United States is happy when we strike at the Russians. A long Russian stay in Afghanistan may even be a part of U.S. policy so that we may deal a severe blow to the Russians. Many Americans ask the following question from time to time: What can we do about Afghanistan? From time to time, statements are made which are more harmful than useful to the mujahidin because they are just words not supported by deeds. The talk about U.S. aid is unfounded. So far, we have seen nothing.

Question: What about aid from the Arab states?

Answer: All the Arab states do is provide aid for the refugees. The level of the aid is not equal to the level of displacement and need. We have no budget for the coming few months. We therefore urge the Islamic Arab states to do their duty because the defense of Afghanistan is also a defense of the Gulf, and repulsing the Russians would mean a great gain for these states.

Question: At the Islamic conference, you requested that the mujahidin be given the seats originally assigned to previous governments. Does this mean the formation of a government in exile?

Answer: At the Islamic conference, we urged the Islamic states to fully recognize the Afghan mujahidin because they are the real rulers of the Afghan people. We can thus form a state again. The people are there and the territory is there. Eighty percent of Afghanistan is now liberated territory. We have also requested ample support and urged a full boycott of the Soviet Union.

Question: Some Arab voices are occasionally raised, saying: Afghans, agree among yourselves so that we may help you.

Answer: It is not difficult to reach agreement. What I fear most is that these voices may be a trick to avoid giving aid.

Question: Mr Rabbani, what is the state of your relations with the Pakistani people and Government? From my conversations with the Pakistani man in the street, I noticed that the Pakistanis are worried about the enormous number of Afghan refugees in their country and are angry about the economic situation and the high cost of living which is rising daily with the influx of refugees. They are afraid that the Afghanistan question may take the same turn as the Palestinian question in Lebanon and that the refugees may be settled in Pakistan and Iran or that Afghanistan may be partitioned

Answer: First of all, our relations with the Government and people of Pakistan are strong and fraternal. The government has not imposed any conditions or laws on us. We are free and we move in Pakistan as if it were our own country, without any pressure. Some people may think that our presence causes economic problems. To them I say that we are defending not only Afghanistan but also Pakistan. To be fair, some of them are aware of this fact and they say that if it were not for the struggle of the people of Afghanistan they would probably have had to defend themselves.

Question: Why does Iran refuse to accept more refugees and why is it expelling some from Iranian territory? It has been reported that 3,000 refugees have recently arrived in the area of (Kuwayta) from Iran.

Answer: Iran, of course, has its own internal problems and it fears the Russians. It is true that Iran has closed the borders and expelled the refugees from the border areas. We have protested to the Iranian Government and pointed out to them that such an attitude is harmful to the Afghan struggle, so they provided evidence.

Question: What evidence?

Answer: Evidence of fear of a Russian attack on the Afghan-Iranian border. We told them that if the Russians wanted to attack they would have attacked deep inside the country, as in Afghanistan, not just on the border. Anyway, we are discussing the matter with the Iranian Government.

Question: But I have also heard that the problem is also social in that some of the refugees are selling and buying arms on the black market.

Answer: This matter of the black market and arms is a lie and a fabrication. Those who have traded with the Iranians are a small group of Afghans. We discussed this with the Iranian Government and promised to bring these unruly elements under control.

BAKHTAR Cites Documents on U.S.-Rebel Collusion

LD210653 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Kabul, February 20, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BIA writes: The armed forces of the DRA in their recent mopping up operations against the counter-revolution have obtained two important documents which uncover the espionage and the criminal collusion of the so-called Islamic bands with the interventionist and aggressor USA. With the disclosure of these two documents the filthy face of notorious US imperialism has once again been revealed.

The first document is a document sent by the leadership of the criminal band of Jam'iat-e Islami. The document gives information on the despatch of a quantity of arms and ammunitions to the bands inside the country. It (?also) proves the high degree of servile devotion of the counter-revolutionary bands to the US imperialism. Part of the letter says: ""We do not have any (?discretionary) power here and we do everything under the instruction of American advisors".

The said documents once again clearly show that the US imperialism gives military training to the criminal counter-revolutionary bands, (?supplies) them with arms and exports them to Afghanistan for (?murder) and subversive actions. The documents clearly prove that the real conductors of the undeclared imperialist war against our country is the US imperialism and the notorious CIA of the USA. The documents expressly state that the counter-revolutionary hirelings have no power and it is the CIA and its advisors who guide them in the interest of the US policy.

The documents obviously prove that the pseudo-defenders of Islam who have stained their hands with the blood of thousands of innocent Moslems are in the service of the most criminal and worst enemy of Islam that is, the US imperialism, which crusades not for Islam or Moslems but for the attainment of US predatory objectives.

The said documents clearly reveal the dirty face of American imperialism and show that the undeclared war imposed by imperialism on our people and our country is not a war for defence of Islam or against infidelity but it is a war of the most oppressive enemy of Islam, the USA, against a people who have broken their centuries old chain of slavery and want to build a just and prosperous society free from poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy, oppression and exploitation.

The documents foil the malicious propaganda of US imperialism on the so-called use of chemical weapons by the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union. The United States which has poisoned thousands of square miles of land by using chemical weapons in Vietnam, has crippled and mutilated thousands of Vietnamese and still thousands of deformed children are born. The United States which stockpiles thousands of chemical and biological weapons and spends billions of dollars for the development of new types of chemical weapons, US which puts chemical weapons at the disposal of the counter-revolution to be used against the Afghan people has launched the futile and sham propaganda to prove that the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union uses the chemical weapons in Afghanistan.

The US imperialism has not presented even the smallest document for proving this blatant lie but desperately repeats this lie and wishes to deceptively establish so by using the counter-revolution as a tool.

One of these documents says "some days ago a list of questions indicating that Russians are using the toxic materials against the Afghan mujahidin was prepared and answers were also given by the leaders."

This document it can be imagined as to what extent the US criminal imperialism is desperately striving to prove this dirty lie and how deep she has stooped down. [sentence as published]

In this document, the miscreants' bands are asked to send these "evidences" to their American masters.

The other document which is written in reply to the first letter, confesses that "no evidence exists to prove this lie but meanly wants that the ringleaders of the bands must supply forged evidences in this connection." The letter says: "But we must point out that it is extremely difficult to find toxic materials here and the fact is that such thing does not exist inside Afghanistan but we are happy that it can be supplied there with the help of friends. It would be better to inform us when it is put on display in order to apprise the people over here."

No document can expose more clearer than this the ominous substance of the imperialist propaganda. The documents show that the entire US policy and propaganda are combined with lie, fabrication and conspiracy and how the US imperialism resorts to the most inhuman and mean methods.

The said documents disclose the extensive intervention of the aggressive US imperialism in the internal affairs of our country and the degree of the servitude of the counter-revolution to imperialism.

It proves once again that the blood stained hands of US imperialism conduct the undeclared war of imperialism against our people, revolution and the country.

DCMLA Khan Returns From USSR, Discusses Visit

BK191700 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The deputy chief martial law administrator, [DCMLA], Rear Admiral M.A. Khan, has said the new Soviet leadership has reciprocated Bangladesh's sentiments to further strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries. He was speaking to newsmen in Dhaka today on his return home after attending the funeral of Soviet President Yuriy Andropov. The information minister, Syed Najmuddin Hashim, accompanied him.

The DCMLA said Bangladesh desires to have best relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of sovereign equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs in the interest of the two peoples. He said a protocol is to be signed in the Soviet Union next month for the construction of (Roopsa) bridge. [Words indistinct] experts will determine the range of [word indistinct] for the bridge.

In Moscow, the DCMLA met the new Soviet leader, Mr Chernenko, and conveyed the congratulations from the people of Bangladesh on his assumption to the post of the secretary general of the Communist Party. He also met several ministers there.

OBSERVER Says Ershad To Consolidate Janadal Party

BK171535 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Feb 84 p p 1,12

[By staff correspondent]

[Text] President Ershad will pay undivided attention to the consolidation of Janadal, a party born with the blessing, after he had worked out the details of the strategy in the light of the dialogue he had with the political parties.

The party, now about three months old and a conglomerate of divergent political views, is facing turmoil within, with each group vying to be the dominant partner in the power structure.

This has led to embarrassing situations both for President Ershad and the party. There has been open fight among various factions of Janadal to gain control of the party during the formations of district committees. Incidents at Narayanganj, Jessore and Chittagong are of recent memory.

Janadal insiders feel this is a passing phase and President Ershad will be able to smoothen the rough edges. How soon President Ershad will formally throw his lot with the party is anybody's guess. But this will be a crucial decision for him.

President Ershad will be able to hold the party together for the time being, it is felt. Dissension will surface when he takes up the thankless job of the distribution of political patronage among his camp followers.

The formation of a political cabinet will depend on the revised election schedule which President Ershad is going to announce when he addresses the nation sometime this week presumably on Tuesday.

A highly placed Government source told *THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER* recently that the President will not disturb the present cabinet if he decides to advance the date of elections. There is no point in disturbing the cabinet for two or three months, he viewed.

But there will be practical problems in holding the elections because of monsoon.

Under such circumstances President Ershad may prefer to hold the elections sometime in November. If the election dates are shifted to November under the new arrangements. there will be a new political cabinet.

It is almost certain now that Presidential and Parliamentary elections will be held on the same date.

The consideration for the formation of a political front with President Ershad providing the leadership will be taken up later this month. Optimistic words were said about the floating of a political front by a Janadal insider.

Gandhi Meets With PRC's Huang Hua 20 February

BK201617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The leader of the Chinese delegation to the New Delhi conference on population, Mr Huang Hua, had a 30-minute meeting with the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, today. He was accompanied by his wife.

An official spokesman said that the meeting was in the nature of a courtesy call during which both expressed the desire of the two countries to improve their relations. However, no specific issues were discussed.

Reportage on Situation in Punjab, Haryana

BK181617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The union home secretary, Mr T.N. Chaturvedi, today visited Amritsar in Punjab and some other places in Haryana for on the spot assessment of the situation. He was accompanied by senior officials of the two state governments.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that the law and order situation in Punjab is fully under control. In Haryana, however, one person was killed at Kaithal in Kurukshetra district when police opened fire to disperse a violent crowd demonstrating against the incidents in Punjab.

The chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, told our correspondent his evening that the situation is now under control.

Curfew has been further relaxed in some of the towns in Punjab, although it has been extended till tomorrow in Amritsar, Ludhiana and Ferozepore.

The adviser to the Punjab governor, Dr S.S. Sidhu, said in Ludhiana that there was no move for police entry into the Golden Temple complex. Mr Sidhu was commenting on the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee [SGPC] [Sikh Temple Management Committee] president, Mr Tohra's allegation that yesterday's firing at the Golden Temple complex was part of a policy for police entry into the complex.

The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, said that the Akali Dal has decided against participating in the next round of tripartite talks to resolve the Punjab tangle. A similar statement was made by the SGPC president, Mr Tohra, in Ludhiana.

Home Secretary Comment

BK190748 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The home secretary, Mr T.N. Chaturvedi, has said that all sections of society want peace in Punjab and we must contribute to bring normalcy in this state. He was speaking to newsmen in Amritsar after his visit to trouble-affected areas in Punjab and Haryana.

He described the decision of the Akali Dal that it would not take part in the next round of tripartite talks as an unfortunate development. Mr Chaturvedi also met police, Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, and state government officials as well as leaders of the Akali Dal and other political parties.

The All-India Radio correspondent reporting from Amritsar said that the situation is fast returning to normal. The curfew will also be relaxed for some more time.

19 February Shooting

BK191612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] In Haryana, four persons were killed today when police opened fire in Pantipath on an unruly mob indulging in arson. It was officially stated in Chandigarh that the situation is now under control. No untoward incident was reported from any other part of the state. The situation in Karnal and Kaithal has improved.

An official spokesman told All-India Radio correspondent in New Delhi this evening that the center has rushed police enforcements to Panipath to help local authorities in maintaining law and order.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has reviewed the situation in the state. He appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony.

In Punjab, the law and order situation is under control and no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere. The curfew in Amritsar, Ferozepore, and Ludhiana has been extended till Tuesday morning and the night curfew will continue in Jullundur, Patiala, and Khanna.

The minister for information and broadcasting, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, has appealed to the media to help create an atmosphere for the speedy restoration of normalcy and harmony between different sections of people in Punjab and Haryana. This would be in keeping with the best tradition of responsible journalism in our country.

In a statement issued in New Delhi today, Mr Bhagat said the union home secretary, who has just returned after a vist to Punjab and Haryana, has apprised him of the widespread circulation of wild and unfounded rumors there.

Mr Bhagat expressed distress that some sections of the press have not exercised proper restraint in news presentation and publication of photographs in view of the sensitivity of the situation. He appealed to all people, particularly those in the two states, not to give credence to rumors which are being spread deliberately by mischievous elements for nefarious ends.

Spokesman on Talks

BK200650 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday that the government deeply regrets the reported decision of the Shiromani Akali Dal not to participate in the tripartite talks on the Punjab problem. The talks were adjourned for a short interval in response to a suggestion by opposition leaders including those of the Akali Dal that they may go to Punjab to help in restoring peace and normalcy there.

The spokesman said it is unfortunate that in the meantime some antisocial elements have indulged in further violence. He said the government has always deplored violence and spared no effort for maintenance of peace and communal harmony. It is most regrettable that the government is now being accused of having engineered the recent incidents in Punjab and Haryana. He said this accusation is preposterous. To say that the government was itself interested in [word indistinct] reports is a total distortion of facts, the spokesman said. The government is fully ocmmitted to a settlement through dialogue and hopes that the Akali Dal would resume the talks without any further loss of time. He said delay can only harm the cause of peace and communal harmony.

Home Minister's Appeal

BK200658 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The home minister has made a fervent appeal to the people of Haryana and Punjab to maintain peace and communal harmony. In the appeal broadcast and telecast last night, Mr Sethi said there have been very sad incidents in Haryana and Punjab during the past few days, especially yesterday and the day before. These have caused anxiety to the central government and also to the people of the country. The home minister uged the people of the two states to see that no untoward incident takes place and that everyone comes together to establish peace and harmony.

Mr Sethi is visiting Panipat today to make an on-the-spot study of the situation. He has been asked by the prime minister to undertake the visit. The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has gone to Panipat. Four persons were killed in Panipat yesterday in a clash between two groups and in police firing. According to the Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, the situation there is under control. He said deterrent action will be taken against those who violate law and order.

Conciliation Mission

BK200906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The energy minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, has left for Punjab on a mission of good will and conciliation at the instance of the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi. Mr Shiv Shankar will meet leaders of different political parties and groups to heal the rift. He will visit Amritsar, Jullundur, and Patiala among other places.

The union home minister, Mr Sethi, visited Panipat this morning and was there for about 2 hours. It has been officially stated that the situation in Panipat is fully under control.

The president of the Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh group, Jathedar Rachpal Singh, has condemned the violent incidents in Haryana and appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony. In a statement in New Delhi, he urged the people to remain calm and not to be carried away by mischievous propaganda. He demanded a judicial inquiry into yesterday's incidents at Panipat.

Cabinet Committee Discussion

BK201303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The political affairs committee of the union cabinet is meeting in New Delhi this evening to review the situation in Punjab and Haryana. The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, who returned to the capital after a brief visit to Panipat, is expected to report to the committee on the developments in Haryana. In Panipat, Mr Sethi went round the areas affected by yesterday's incidents. He was accompanied by the Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, some state ministers, and top officials. Mr Sethi expressed grief over the loss of life and property. Talking to the people, he said the need of the hour is to restore peace and communal harmony. The All-India Radio correspondent, Permesh Kashyap, reports from Panipat that representatives of different communities assured Mr Sethi that they would work for the return of normalcy. The home minister asked Mr Bhajan Lal to ensure that the affected people are provided with adequate compensation. Mr Bhajan Lal has already announced 10,000 rupees to the family of each deceased.

The chief minister has ordered a magisterial inquiry into yesterday's incidents. He has also instructed the police to shoot at sight anyone attempting to set fire to any religious place.

Mr Sethi also visited the civil hospital in Panipat and inquired about the injured. The situation in the town is now fully under control.

Meanwhile, the minister for petroleum, Mr Shiv Shankar, left New Delhi this afternoon for Punjab. He will visit Amritsar, Jullundur, and Patiala and meet leaders of various political parties. An official spokesman said he will also meet Akali leaders. The All-India Radio correspondent understands that Mr Shiv Shankar's visit is a part of the government's efforts to resume the tripartite talks to solve the Punjab problem.

The former chief minister of Punjab, Mr Darbara Singh, who is now in Europe, has been asked to cut short his visit and return home to be available for consultations on Punjab.

The Congress-I Working Committee has strongly condemned the violence in Punjab and Haryana, which, it said, has halted the process of normalcy in the two states. In a statement in New Delhi today, the committee said that the unceasing campaign of

hatred set into motion by the Akali extremists has now been aided by the disruptive activities of the Hindu communal organizations like the RSS [Rashtriaya Swayam Sewak Sangh]. It is now clear that the latest incidents have been masterminded by those who want to prevent at any cost a peaceful solution to the problem through dialogue.

Congress-I Working Statement

BK201605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The Congress-I working committee has strongly condemned violence in Punjab and Haryana which, it says, has slowed the process of restoring normalcy in the two states. The committee met today under the presidentship of Mrs Gandhi and reviewed the situation in these states following violent incidents claiming innocent lives. A statement issued by the party general secretary, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi said the working committee has called upon all sections of the community to rise as one to combat the propaganda of extremists to restore peace and communal harmony. It has appealed to the people not to shelter the communal forces which are trying to break the historic bonds of brotherhood between the Hindus and Sikhs. The statement says Hindu communal organizations, like the RSS, have joined hands with the extremist Akalis to weaken the country's unity. It has been masterminded by those who want to prevent a peaceful solution to the problem through dialogue. A great responsibility lies on all political parties to create a climate conducive to the solution of outstanding issues. The continued social and economic progress of Punjab and Haryana is at stake.

The working committee has urged the government to take strict and speedy action against rioters and looters. The meeting, which lasted about 2 hours, was attended among others by the working president, Mr Kamlapati Tripathi, Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Mr Shiv Shankar, and all the general secretaries.

Shoot at Sight Order

BK201613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, today visited Panipat in Haryana and went around the areas affected by yesterday's incidents. He was accompanied by the state chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, some state ministers and top officials.

Our correspondent reports that the situation in the town is fully under control. The death toll in yesterday's incident has risen to eight. The chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has said that a magisterial inquiry has been ordered into yesterday's incidents. He said that the police has been instructed to shoot at sight anyone attempting to set fire to any religious place. He assured the people that stringent action will be taken against the culprits as well as any officials failing in his duties.

On return to Chandigarh the chief minister announced the imposition of Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more people] in all the towns of Haryana and a ban on carrying of arms. He said the DSP [deputy superintendent of police] of Panipat has been suspended and the SHO [station head officer] is being transferred. Mr Bhajan Lal added that the traffic on the Grand Trunk road is now flowing freely and police patrols have been set up all along.

According to official sources in Chandigarh, about 25 people were injured at Jind in Haryana today in a clash between two groups of people. Meanwhile, measures have been strengthened for security of major places of worship in the state. A bundh [strike] was observed in Kurukshetra, Kaithal, and parts of Sonepat.

In Jullundur, the curfew has been extended up to 0600 on Wednesday as a precautionary measure. It will be relaxed for 14 hours tomorrow from 0600 to 2000. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the curfew imposed in some other towns of the state will continue for the time being.

Shankar: Encouraging Response

BK210616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The energy minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, has said that he has received an encouraging response from various sections on the need to protect religious places from antisocial elements. He was talking to newsmen in Amritsar last night after several hours of meetingswith representatives of the Akali Dal, Congress-I, CPI, CPI-M, Bharatiya Janata Party, Janata Party, and Rashtriya Suraksha Samity . He also met prominent citizens, traders, and businessmen. He said he has requested the Akali Dal to see that religious places are protected from antisocial elements and should not be used for dumping weapons. In reply to a question, he said the response to the request was not only encouraging but positive. He expressed the hope that all concerned will cooperate in restoring normalcy and peace in Amritsar and in the state as a whole.

Referring to the recent happenings in the state, he said the center does not want to take any hasty measure. He reiterated that the government is committed to solving the Punjab problem.

Mr Shiv Shankar is today visiting Jullundur. A delegation of 8 women members of parliament have also reached Amritsar on good-will mission. It will be meeting various sections of the people, the Punjab Hindu Suraksha Samity and the Punjab Hindu Sangathan have postponed the proposed satyagraha [passive resistance movement] against the alleged police excesses. The satyagraha was to commence today in important towns of Punjab.

Meanwhile, the law and order situation in the state continues to be under control. Curfew in six towns will, however, continue for the time being. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this is a precautionary measure in view of the prevailing situation in Haryana.

Shankar Return to Delhi

BK210951 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The energy minister, Mr Shiv Shanker, returned to New Delhi today from Amritsar. He apprised the prime minister of his discussions with various parties, including the Akali Dal, Congress-I, CPI, CPI-M, Bharatiya Janata Party, the Rashtriya Suraksha Samiti,traders, and other citizens.

Speaking to the All-India Radio [AIR] correspondent, Mr Shiv Shanker said the immediate need is to forge communal harmony. The administration will be taking all steps toward this end. By and large, people of both the communities are not looking at the problem from a communal angle, but the acts of some unsocial elements are giving it a communal color.

The Akali Dal is sending a high-level mission to Haryana to make an on-the-spot study of the situation at Panipat, Karnal, and Jind.

Meanwhile, one person who was injured in yesterday's incident at Jind has died.

The law and order situation in Punjab continues to be under control. The curfew in Ludhiana, which was relaxed for 8 hours at 0900 this morning was, however, reimposed after 2 and 1/2 hours as a precautionary measure in view of tension in a part of the city.

An official spokesman told AIR correspondent in Chandigarh that except for a case of attempted arson in Bhatinda no untoward incident has be : reported from anywhere in the state.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, told newsmen in Chandigarh that no untoward incident has been reported today from any part of the state. He said traffic on the Grand Trunk Road is normal. As a precautionary measure, however, middle, high, and higher secondary school examinations have been postponed for a week.

Amritsar Grenade Attack

BK211139 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Feb 21 (AFP) — Suspected Sikh extremists made a grenade attack on security forces in Punjab today while elsewhere in the troubled state three temples were set on fire in renewed violence last night, reports said.

In neighbouring Haryana, no fresh incidents were reported after the police were ordered yesterday to shoot troublemakers on sight. A week of communal violence has left 34 people dead and 260 wounded in the two northern states.

In a report from Chandigarh, the states' joint capital, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said that unidentified people lobbed two hand grenades at a group of para-military police in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar this morning. One grenade exploded but no-one was hurt.

In Bhatinda town, youths set alight three temples last night, PTI said. It did not specify whether the temples were Sikh or Hindu. The fires were put out before much damage was done.

In Hoshiarpur, a bomb was thrown at another temple but failed to explode, PTI said.

A curfew in the Punjab towns of Ludhiana and Patiala was relaxed briefly then reinforced as fresh tension simmered. A curfew in main cities was extended for 24 hours.

In Ludhiana, Hindus staged a march during the curfew break and shopkeepers downed their shutters. In Patiala, militant Sikh students called a strike to protest what they said was anti-Sikh violence in Haryana, prompting the curfew to be clamped again.

Six companies of crack border troops were reportedly sent to the north last night to protect main roads and railways between New Delhi and the Punjab via Haryana.

PTI reported from Amritsar that the Akali Dal high command decided last night to go ahead with plans for a bonfire demonstration before Parliament House on Monday. The Sikhs, considered by the Constitution a part of Hinduism, seek recongnition as a separate religon. The Akali Dal also has decided to send a high-level team to make an on-the-spot study of the situation at Haryana towns of Panipat and Jind. Twenty-five people were wounded when police opened fire on opposing groups of Hindus and Sikhs in Jind yesterday.

Education Exchange With USSR Discussed in Delhi

BK201403 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have stressed the need for exchange of professors between the two countries for higher studies.This was stated at a meeting between the minister of state for education, Mrs Sheila Kaul, and the Soviet deputy minister for higher education, Mrs Shaposhnikova, in New Delhi today. Both the countries expressed their keen desire to exchange Russian scholars for learning Sanskrit in India and Indian scholars to learn Russian in that country.

AFP: Karachi University Closed for 7 Days

BK191544 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Feb 19 (AFP) — Karachi University was closed today for a seven-day "vacation" following persistent student protests against a recent martial law ban on their union activities. Yesterday, the students had hijacked four government-owned vehicles and set fire to one of them in the campus.

More than 100 students and other were detained by police during the past week, police sources said, but most were released after questioning.

Punjab Association Condemns Attack on Teachers

GF201455 Karachi DAWN in English 17 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] Lahore, Feb 16 — The Punjab University Academic Staff Association has condemned the attack on Sardar Mohammad Iqbal Moakkal, principal Law College and other teachers by a group of students.

The association, at its emergency meeting held on Wednesday, urged the authorities to provide adequate security arrangement for teachers.

The meeting in a resolution said that apart from a small group, all teachers and students wanted to continue to attend classes. Those who wanted to disrupt classes should be suitably punished.

AFP on Government Effort To 'Muzzle' Press

BK201425 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 20 (AFP) — The Pakistani military regime today ordered all public institutions and schools to stop buying "irresponsible" newspapers and magazines — defined as those not under government control.

Only five government-controlled "balanced" dailies, *THE PAKISTAN TIMES, MORNING NEWS*, and three Urdu publications, can be bought for public employees under the new law, which was passed by the cabinet in December and has just come into force.

The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) called for immediate withdrawal of the order, saying it was "unjustified" and "deplorable."

The Council of Newspaper Editors also met today to study the effect of the government's latest attempt to muzzle the independent and opposition press.

Pakistan has theoretical freedom of the press, but a number of publications are excluded from this right, and are censored, including the main opposition daily *AMAN*.

The government also has indirect control of other papers, as it determines publication quotas and the allocation of advertising money.

BBC Atomic Bomb Report Termed 'Baseless'

BK201032 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Official sources in Islamabad have described as incorrect and baseless a report broadcast in a BBC program that Pakistan has acquired the capability of manufacturing an atom bomb. It may be recalled that the Pakistani scientist Dr Abdul Qadir Khan had himself said that his interview to an Urdu daily of Pakistan was being deliberately misinterpreted. He had reiterated that Pakistan was engaged in a very limited research and development program solely for peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The sources also pointed out the recent observation made by the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, while answering question on the subject by newsmen. The president had said Pakistan had acquired a very modest research and development capability in enrichment of uranium and that it is for no other than peaceful purposes.

DAWN Cites Abdul Qadir Khan on Interview

GF201901 Karachi DAWN English 15 Feb 84 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 14 — Dr Abdul Qadir Khan, a Pakistani nuclear scientist, said here on Monday that his recent interview to an Urdu daily of Pakistan was being deliberately misinterpreted for reasons not known to him.

Dr Khan reiterated that as per government policy, Pakistan is engaged in a very limited research and development programme solely for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He said "any other interpretation of my statement would be incorrect." — APP

Scientist Speaks on Nuclear Capability

GF191338 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 84 p 12

[Text] Independent nuclear capability alone can guarantee the viable security of a developing country like Pakistan and along with it, its unhindered social, industrial and economic growth.

This was the consensus of a large gathering of scientists, teachers and intellectuals at the 50th meeting of the Scientists' Club a voluntary organisation held at the Planning Commissions's auditorium on Thursday.

Dr. Hasnain of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC] was in the chair.

Nuclear capability, stressed Mr. Sajjad Haider, former ambassador, who was speaker of the evening, held key to peace and co-operation in the region. But he did not mean by the acquisition of nuclear arms but the capability to build these, he hastened to clarify.

Energy consumption and socio-economic development, he pointed out, go hand in hand. At present, we have the lowest per

capita commercial electricity and energy consumption levels in the world. It is 1/10th of the world average, 1/3rd of the Asian average and 1/70th of the North American consumption level. Not surprisingly, the per capita GNP is also about 1/70th of the North American GNP.

In the next two decades, the per capita energy demand will increase by at least 400 per cent. Despite increasing our indigenous oil production, our oil import accounts for some 50 per cent of our total annual foreign exchange expenditure.

Our total reserves are insignificant, while natural gas resources amount to approximately 724 million tons of coal equivalent.

We should reserve its use for industrial purposes but having no alternative, we are depleting this valuable resources at a rate which may not enable us to use it in the major part of next century. As regards hydro-electricity, we have approximately 50 per cent of its maximum economic utilisation, he added.

The importance of achieving autarky in the nuclear field was brought home to us when in 1976 Canada unilaterally reneged from its commitment to supply fuel for our reactor, Kanupp in Karachi, he recalled.

And from the social, economic and educational development of the country, a country's security must rest in its military capability to deter aggression. But Pakistan, with its smaller size can never hope to hold a bigger neighbour at bay by its conventional military capability.

A nuclear option, which can, in fact, remain a nuclear capability, alone represents the only possible equaliser for Pakistan in this context, Mr. Sajjad Haider observed.

He referred the audience to the example of Europe which had successfully precluded the outbreak of war through buildup of nuclear deterrence in the 39 years since and of World War II.

Had there existed a nuclear balance between Pakistan and India, he argued, we might have been spared the series of conflicts which turned the sub-continent into economically the most depressed region even in Asian context.

He was asked what economic and political pressures might be brought to bear on Pakistan if it went in for nuclear capability, Mr. Sajjad Haider replied: "Fait accomplis the countenance," India, Israel, South Africa, had already done so but to this day no political action has been taken against any of them and the West even continues to co-operate with them, he pointed out.

Dr. Hasnain remarked that peaceful nuclear programmes were tabooed while nuclear weapons of all kinds were mushrooming.

MRD Plans Processions, Meetings for March

GF191333 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] Attock, Feb 13 — Mr Asif Fasihuddin Vardag, deputy secretary general of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istaqlal, has said that the second round of the MRD movement would start in March in which workers would hold meetings and take out processions.

Replying to a question about proposed general elections on non-party basis, he said that the present government was not sincere about its professions of transfer of power to the representatives of the people as it had created Majlis-i-Shoora consisting of nominated members.

Talking to newsmen at the residence of a local councillor, Seth Muhammad Afzal Dar at Hazro, some 20 km from here, he said that he had met Mr J.A. Rahim, Mr Mushir Pesh Imam and Mr Ahmed Mian Soomro at Karachi and discussed party affairs with them.

The national working committee of the party will consider the suspension of Mr Khalil Nainitalwala and others.

He was confident that a satisfactory solution of the current crisis in the party would be found.

He also said that seven Tehrik office-bearers who were elected in local councils elections in defiance of party decisions in the Punjab have been removed from their offices and their places would be filled for the interim period through nominations.

DAWN: Party Considers Change of Strategy

GF201346 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Feb 84 p 10

[Text] Karachi, Feb 14 — Feeling increasingly uneasy in its present ambivalent relationship with the martial law government, the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami now faces a dilemma and is seriously rethinking its strategy.

Informal consultations among top Jamaat leaders are under way on whether to continue with the present policy with its disadvantages and advantages or to chart out a new line of distancing the party from the government.

A change in the Jamaat's attitude towards the defunct Pakistan People's Party [PPP], its polar opposite in national politics, may also be on the cards. The realisation that the Jamaat should become part of the political consensus in the struggle for the restoration of democracy is growing.

But there is still serious hesitation in taking on the posture of confrontation with the government, mainly because of the external situation and the Jamaat's involvement in the Afghanistan crisis.

These impressions were gathered in an interview with Prof Ghafoor Ahmad, Naib Amir of the party, in his Panorama Centre office in Karachi on Monday. He left for Lahore on Tuesday to meet his party chief, Mian Sahib, who has recently returned from abroad.

Prof Ghafoor was candid in admitting that the Jamaat's strategy in cooperating with the martial law government had failed and that this failure had confronted the party with difficult questions.

He said that "a very large group" in the Jamaat was disheartened over the measures so far adopted by the government and was concerned about the threat to the very existence of the country if the present drift continued.

His immediate prescription: a better relationship and effective cooperation between all the politial parties, particularly, as he put it, between "the PNA [as published] parties and the PPP."

Such a cooperation, in his view, was necessitated because of the attitude of the government whose "deeds have defied their words." All that they have done, he said, indicate that they wish to perpetuate themselves.

However, he felt that the political parties did not have the strength to force the government to change its attitude.

So he appealed to the political sense of the martial law rulers and underlined that the continuation of martial law and generate external and internal dangers that the army itself would not be able to tackle.

He urged that confrontation should be avoided and a negotiated settlement made possible to finally hold elections within the time schedule announced on August 12 last year.

But if the political parties fail and if the government continues to hold on to power, then the situation is bound to generate vilence in the country "and the existence of the country can be threatened." In fact, he said, mentally the integrity of the country was already in doubt.

Recalling that in 1977 the struggle was waged against the PPP, Prof Ghafoor said that now seven years had passed and the PPP had presented itself as a party struggling for the restoration of democracy.

"We now realise that there should be an understanding with PPP, for we suppose that its struggle is for the implementation of the '73 Constitution in letter and in spirit," he said.

Apart from drawing attention to external factors, the Jamaat leader also referred to the internal situation and found it characterised by worsening law and order situation, inflation and, most significantly, a sense of non-participation among the people of the smaller provinces in framing policies and running the administration.

It was evident from Prof Ghafoor's remarks that though conscious of the need to change the policy of cooperation with the martial law government, the party could not be expected to confront the government because of the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

But he feared that the Jamaat might still not be able to save the country from violence. Hence the need for understanding among political parties and an end to martial law.

Official Says Afghan Refugee Flow Continuing

BK191603 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan is continuing. On average 2,500 refugees are entering Northwest Frontier Province from Afghanistan every month. This was stated by the provincial commissioner for Afghan refugees at a news conference in Peshawar this afternoon. He said the number of Afghan refugees registered in the province has now reached 2.07 million. These refugees have been kept in 280 tented villages in the province and in the adjoining tribal areas.

Inquiry Ordered Into Karachi Airport Fire

BK201529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The fire, which broke out at the international departure and transit lounges of terminal No 1 of the Karachi airport around noon today, has been brought under control, and international and domestic flights will resume tonight. No passengers at the airport or any member of the airport staff were injured in the fire. However, some fire fighting personnel were injured. The Sind governor and martial law administrator has ordered a high-level inquiry into the cause of fire.

Khamene'i: We Will Soon Complete Our Task

LD201109 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpt] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, emphasized during a speech today: With divine succor, with the help of the forces deployed on the battlefronts today, and in view of the determination and motive of the people and the brave combatants of Islam — who are awaiting the signal to deliver the final blow to the aggressive enemy — we will soon complete our task. Mr Khamene'i emphasized: Today, the existence and presence of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran affects the formation of the great political equations of the world. The United States, the Soviet Union, and the major Western powers take the Islamic Republic of Iran into account when making decisions on this region.

IRNA Account

GF201645 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said Monday that with the forces now at the fronts and the motivation of the nation and combatants of Islam waiting to make the final strike against the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors, God willing, the war would soon finish.

Speaking to a group of Basij (Mobilisation) forces, members of Mashhad's local Islamic Councils and the Khorasan Guild Association here Monday morning he also noted that the Islamic Republic system was a real factor in international political calculations.

He noted that the United States, the Soviet Union and the big Western powers took decisions, publicized and made them operable with due respect to the existence of the Islamic Republic in the region. If the Islamic Republic did not exist, the president added, these decisions and their implementation would not be necessary.

Referring to the Iraqi war against Iran, President Khamene'i reiterated that global imperialism, following intricate planning, imposed the war on the Islamic Republic, with the objective of either defeating the Islamic Revolution and Republic or forcing the nation into a humiliating peace agreement.

In the early stages of the war, when the enemies realized that the Islamic Revolution could not be defeated by a military aggression, they attempted to force a ceasefire on the Islamic Republic while Iranian cities were under enemy occupation, the president said.

But, he emphasised, Iran announced decisively that the fate of Palestine and the unsuccessful wars waged by the Islamic countries versus the Zionist usurpers were clear examples of it.

Praising the struggle of the Muslim people in overthrowing the former regime in Iran, President Khamene'i said that Iranians were now confronting international imperialism with the same spirit they engaged imperialism's finger in Iran, the toppled shah.

Noting that although there were still some bottlenecks in the country, Khamene'i said that post-revolution achievements were miraculous compared to the corresponding periods before the revolution.

At the end of his remarks a sum of over 341 million rials (about dlrs 4m.) as well as a quantity of jewelry were presented to President Khamene'i, who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council, to be spent for the war effort.

Radio Iran Views Rafsanjani-Khomeyni Meeting

GF201847 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Mullah Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and Ruhollah Khomeyni's representative in the Supreme Defense Council, met Ruhollah Khomeyni in Jamaran this morning. Experts state that Hashemi-Rafsanjani presented Khomeyni with a comprehensive report on the latest casualty figures of the forces of the Islamic Republic in the Val-Fajr V operations. These experts add: There is a possibility that following the meeting between Mullah Rafsanjani and Ruhollah Khomeyni, the war will enter a new phase and the second phase of Val-Fajr V will start in the next few days to further fan the fire of the war.

In a telephone report from Tehran, nationalist sources reported that today's meeting of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ruhollah Khomeyni indicates a new series of terrorist operations by brainwashed suicide agents of the regime in the West.

Libyan Envoy Cites Readiness To Cooperate in Fighting

LD210505 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Our correspondent reports that the Libyan ambassador to Iran yesterday met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. He briefed the ayatollah on the friendly relations between Iran and Libya and informed him of Libya's readiness to cooperate in various fields including fighting against imperialism and repelling the aggression by the infidel Saddam's regime. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri sent greetings to the Muslim nation of Libya and, stressing the need for unity of the Mulsim nations in the face of the threat by world blasphemy, prayed for the victory of Muslim combatants on war fronts in Iran, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, and other parts of the world.

Velayati Meets With Kuwaiti Special Envoy

LD201210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Following the messages sent by Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati to foreign ministers of several Islamic and nonaligned countries of the world in connection with the bombing and shelling of our country's border cities by the regime ruling Iraq, the foreign minister of Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir as-Sabah, responded by sending a special envoy.

According to our correspondent, during a meeting with the special envoy of the Kuwaiti foreign affairs minister this morning, Mr Velayati stressed the determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran to gain final victory in the imposed war. Mr Velayati also reiterated the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to maintain good-neighborly relations particularly with Islamic countries. Also in the course of this meeting, our country's minister of foreign affairs urged the removal of difficulties which have been recently created for some Iranians living in Kuwait.

Rafsanjani Urges 10 Replies to Every Assassination
LD191204 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 19, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Sunday commenting on victorious Val Fajr-5 operations,added that simultaneously with these achievements forces of global imperialism were hatching sophisticated plots throughout the world and especially in the region.

Speaking at Sunday morning's Majlis open session Rafsanjani said that examples of such conspiracies were the martyrdom of Shaykh Raghib Harb, Friday prayers leader of Jibshit of Lebanon, an aborted assassination attempt against the life of Iran's ambassador to Syria, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashamipour, and the relentless propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic.

He stressed that in the same manner the Islamic Republic dealt with counterrevolutionaries, so should the world revolutionaries deal with international imperialism.

Rafsanjani called upon anti-imperialist forces to show decisiveness and give at least 10 suitable replies to every assassination committed by global oppression.

Vulnerability of international imperialists was much higher than that of revolutionary forces, the Majlis speaker said, noting that the former had its centres everywhere (?and its) crimes should be confronted decisively.

Commenting on the Iraqi imposed war, the Majlis speaker said that whenever Iran achieved a victory in war-fronts, the Baghdad regime would either reflect its frustration by missile attacking Iranian areas, or through its agents, usually the MKO's [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] would assassinate a dignified personality.

Rafsanjani stressed that Saturday's announcement by Iran's Joint Staff, neutralised Iraqi regime's allegations of Iran not being willing to reciprocate ceasing attacks on each other's cities.

The Majlis speaker emphasised that the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn was facing impasse, adding that if Saddam launched an attack against one of the Iranian cities he would spoil his one-week propaganda in this respect and if he failed to attack, he would materialise the desire of the Islamic Republic during the 40 months passing the imposed war — no attack on civilians.

In the same manner, he said, news imperialism should be brought to a dead-end, noting that revolutionaries and Muslims throughout the world should take the same position vis-a-vis international imperialism that the Islamic Republic took against counterrevolutionaries.

Velayati Letter Agrees to Receiving UN Mission
LD182225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] In a letter to the UN secretary general, Foreign Minister Velayati, while announcing his concurrence to receiving a mission from the organization to visit the war-stricken regions of the present imposed war, requested the deletion from the mission's agenda of the issue concerning the seeking of information about the stands of the two governments.

In his letter, Velayati announced: Considering the recent developments, regretfully, it is not at all possible for us to hold any political talks with the UN mission's members. Alluding to the recent criminal attacks by the aggressive Zionist Iraqi regime against the civilian areas and the innocent people as well as the indifference and laxity of international communities vis-a-vis the violation of human rights by the Baghdad rulers — a matter repeatedly pointed out to the United Nations — the foreign minister said: There is no alternative left to the Islamic Republic of Iran but to rely on its own power.

In conclusion, the letter stressed: The UN mission should complete its earlier report on the bombing of the civilian areas of our country and start debating the use of chemical weapons by the Baghdad Zionist regime.

Joint Staff Chief: Attacks on Towns Suspended
LD181725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] A message was issued this evening by the chief of the JointStaff of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces, addressed to the heroic Iranian nation and the oppressed people of Iraq:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Iraqi regime has been demolishing our towns and civilian centers for more than 3 years. During this time, we showed restraint and forbearance. Our adherence to moral principles has been proved to all our friends and enemies. Everyone knows that we are capable of defeating the oppressive and aggressive enemy at the battlefront—when we come face to face with him— that we do not need to attack towns.

When the enemy went beyond the norm in attacking the civilian centers, then we decided to respond in kind. First, the dear people of Iraq were informed. And then, within a few days, we showed that in this arena too we hold superiority. Although the selected targets in Basra, Al-'Amarah, Al-Kut, Ali Gharbi, Mandali, Khanaqin, and Ba'qubah were raided, nevertheless, the Iraqi regime felt defeated.

Now the Iraqi rulers have declared that they will no longer attack towns. Although we do not trust this or any other promises given by the Iraqi rulers, nevertheless, in respect for accepted moral principles and in view of the fact that Islamic combatants only

retaliate. for the time being, attacks on Iraqi towns will be suspended so that the issue can be evaluated to see how sincere the military rulers of Iraq are in their admonishment.

However, as soon as the very first artillery, missile, or air raid by the enemy on any Iranian towns starts, then we will resume our response in kind. Needless to say, fighting by the Islamic combatants at the battlefronts will continue as strongly until final victory.

[Signed] Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces

Naval Commander Visits Khark Island 19 Feb

GF201845 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Captain Hoseyni, commander of the Navy of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Khark yesterday, accompanied by the commander of the 3d Naval District. He was welcomed by commanders of military and law enforcement bodies and officials of the island.

According to the Central News Unit, soon after his arrival in Khark, the commander of our country's Navy reviewed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region with the military commanders of the area. He also inspected military installations and various departments of the air defense units stationed on this island.

According to this report, the Navy commander yesterday attended evening and night prayers of the military and law enforcement bodies of Khark at the Reza Mosque. After the two prayer ceremonies, he spoke about the naval units' military preparations for combating every kind of aggression.

The commander left Khark this morning.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,639

LD171739 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,639 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The combative forces of Islam, after the victorious Val-Fajr V operations and liberation of a large part of enemy positions, are now consolidating their newly captured positions and are advancing toward their other objectives.

The brave and heroic pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning at 1048 hours local time successfully bombed the military and economic installations of the city of 'Ali al-Gharbi, between the cities of Al-Kut and Al-'Amarah, and returned safely to base.

Yesterday, our artillery units opened fire on the cities of Basra, Mandali, and Khanaqin and destroyed parts of these cities' economic and military installations.

Fire exchange continued in the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, Hajj 'Umran, Marivan, and Panjwin operational sectors during the past 24 hours and movements of the enemy infantry troops and vehicles along the Choman Mustafa and Darband supply routes were halted. A total of 13 light and heavy enemy vehicles were destroyed in these regions.

Sporadic artillery and mortar exchanges continued yesterday on the southern fronts and the intense fire of our forces on enemy vehicle columns and patrol and reconnaissance groups disrupted their activities.

At 1117 hours yesterday, an enemy helicopter was hit by the fire of the Gendarmerie warriors in the Abadan operational sector; it crashed. Additionally, our combat units, while preventing the enemy's engineering and combat activities on the western side of the Arvand Rud, destroyed one mortar tube and several enemy slit trenches along with the troops inside.

The continuous long-range enemy artillery fire on the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr yesterday inflicted losses on the resistant people of these cities.

Communique No 1,640

LD181744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,640 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday, the cities of Basra, Mandali, and Khanaqin were still under the powerful artillery fire of the combatants of Islam, which inflicted considerable damage on the enemy's military and municipal installations. The victorious warriors of Islam on the battlefronts against the Saddamist forces, while defending their own positions, opened intense artillery and mortar fire on the enemy defense lines and fortifications. Through their superior firepower, they inflicted the following losses on the infidel Saddamist forces: On the Piranshah fronts, around 20 enemy troops were either killed or wounded and one of their trucks was destroyed. On the Marivan front, our forces fired on and demolished several buildings of the Halabjah Garrison and inflicted some damage on Iraq's (Chuartah) base. Also two enemy Dushka machine guns were completely destroyed. On the Western fronts, two tanks, one ammunition depot, and one motor vehicle park of the Iraqi forces were set ablaze and destroyed. On the southern fronts, one truck, one loader, and over seven emplacements for heavy and light weapons of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries were destroyed, about 40 of their troops were killed and a number wounded.

Other activities of the defenders of our Islamic homeland on the battlefronts of the imposed war included repulsing or halting and in some regions crushing the moving units and patrol elements of

the Iraqi forces. For example, combatants' fire in the Panjwin and Kani Manga sectors halted the movements of the Saddamist forces who were changing their positions and, in the Qasr-e Shirin sector and the region across from Husayniyah, the vigilant combatants of Islam observed enemy patrols and several other groups who intended to ambush our forces. The fire of the combatants of Islam completely neutralized enemy operations.

In the Shalamcheh region, two infantry companies of the Saddamist forces, with tactical formation, tried to launch an attack, but the powerful and accurate fire of the warriors of Islam destroyed their formation and crushed and dispersed the enemy.

Communique No 1,641

LD191710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,641 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours in the northwestern border fronts, while reinforcing their control over the area under their protection, the brave fighters of Islam suppressed enemy movements through the use of heavy artillery and mortar fire.

In the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, and Hajj 'Umran operational areas,enemy fire was silenced by weapons fire of the victorious forces of Islam and enemy infantry and motorized and helicopter activities were stopped. A number of observation posts and trenches of Saddam's forces also were destroyed and some enemy personnel were killed or wounded.

In the Marivan and Panjwin operational zones, enemy equipment was destroyed by our forces' firing on enemy tanks and artillery positions. In the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, the exchange of fire continued throughout contact lines. Firing by the forces of Islam stopped enemy movements and one of their ammunition dumps was set on fire. Also, a few patrol groups and Iraqi concentrations came under the fire of our forces, which inflicted casualties on the enemy.

In the Abadan operational zone, as the result of the execution of fire by the fighting units of Islam, eight enemy trenches and foxholes and one machine gun position were destroyed and at least 15 Saddamists were killed or wounded.

Communique No 1,642

LD201716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,642 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] At 1210 today, an intruding helicopter of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime was shot down over the Abadan operational zone by the fire of the heroes of the Gendarmerie.

During the past 24 hours, exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire were still continuing between our combatants and the Saddamist forces on the Piranshah and Marivan operational fronts. As a result of the fire of the victors of Islam, the Iraqi forces' fire was silenced, their operational activities and movements were disrupted or stopped, part of the enemy's defense positions was set on fire, and losses and casualties were inflicted upon them.

On the western fronts, the combatants of Islam, fully controlling the movements and traffic of the Saddamist forces and opening heavy artillery fire on their motorized columns, destroyed a number of enemy vehicles carrying personnel and ammunition and smashed and scattered two enemy motorized columns. By opening fire on the Saddamists' positions, units, and supply routes, they also destroyed a considerable number of their heavy and light weapons emplacements and observation posts and set fire to and destroyed one ammunition dump of the Ba'thist enemy.

The combatants of Islam also continued to defend their positions on the southern front. While consolidating their defense positions, they returned the Iraqi forces' artillery fire; silencing their fire, they destroyed several foxholes and slit trenches of the Ba'thist Iraqi Army.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, our combatants, by returning fire on the positions and defense lines of the Iraqi forces, killed or wounded a number of enemy servicemen and set fire to more than 12 enemy heavy and light weapons trenches and observation posts.

Headquarters Communique No 5 Notes Iraqi Losses

LD192122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Communique No 5 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Following the victorious operations of Val-Fajr V which resulted in delivering heavy blows to the Saddamist infidels and in the occupation and full control of the victorious forces of Islam of a number of regions and a supply and communication road inside the Iraqi territory, the defeated enemy launched six more counterattacks from yesterday until noon today, all of which were crushed as the result of the steadfastness of the forces of Islam. The forces of the infidel Iraqi regime were forced to retreat and flee after having suffered many more casualties. In these operations, while completely destroying the 4th Mountain Infantry Brigade and smashing more than 50 percent of the 50th Armored Brigade of the Iraqi 12th Army Division, the fighters of Islam succeeded in capturing a considerable number of 'Aflaqite Saddamist forces and in killing or wounding more than 1,500 of the enemy forces. Consequently, from the beginning of Val-Fajr V operations until now, the number of enemy casualties has exceeded 3,600.

Also in these operations, the powerful forces of Islam shot down 2 enemy helicopters and destroyed more than 20 tanks and a large number of Iraqi vehicles.

Commander Says Forces 40 KM From Tigris River

LD180605 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Excerpt] One of the commanders of the Val-Fajr V operation, in an interview yesterday, described the objective of these operations as taking the forces of Islam as close as possible to Iraqi territory and toppling the criminal Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq. About the overall situation of the operations, he said: The Val-Fajr V operational region in Chenguleh is situated in an area between Mehran and Al- Kut which connects the operational regions of Val-Fajr III and Marom. We have succeeded in taking control ofthe Tib-Badrah strategic road. In this stage of the operation, we have succeeded in recapturing a number of important heights from the Saddamist mercenaries. At present, the distance between our forces and the Tigris is about 40 km. Towns like Al-Kut and (?Shaykh Sa'd) are under our artillery fire. God willing, with the continuation of these operations, we will inflict more crushing blows on enemy forces.

About divine assistance which has this time been bestowed on the forces of Islam, he said: We began the operations on the 13th day of the lunar month, when the full moon was out. Despite the fact that the enemy was equipped with infrared cameras and (Rasit) radar which show movements in the night, we were able to liberate the area between Height 230 and the (Azadkhan Koshteh) River to Sarkhar River, 25-km long and 6-km deep, covering 150 square km which was in the hands of the Iraqi mercenaries during the 40 months of the war.

The commander added: In these operations, the towns of (Bagsayah) and (Alyasin) and the villages of Shaykh Ahmad and Qal'ah are well within the firing range of the forces of Islam.

In another part of his interview, he referred to the heights captured by the forces of Islam: We have liberated the heights of (Fasal), (Azadkhan Koshteh), Taqi Mordeh, Pizuli, (Kuh Tunnel), Chagha Askar, and the farthest end of the Chagha Askar range of heights. Chenguleh River which has a wide mouth and an important strategic location, as well as the Rivers (Azadkhan), (Banyfon), and Sarkhar, which are important waterways, have been captured by the forces of Islam. It should be noted that this region includes a large part of agricultural land and the farms are watered by the Chenguleh River.

The commander described the morale of the combatants of Islam as very high. He said: In these operations we witnessed the power of God and saw for ourselves how the 4th Brigade of the Border Guards and one commando battalion were destroyed; 2,100 of the enemy forces were killed or wounded; and a large number of Iraqi soldiers were captured by the forces of Islam.

Three Iraqi Counterattacks Repulsed 17 February

GF180750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] With valor and bold resistance, the courageous Islamic forces yesterday afternoon repulsed three enemy counterattacks. A number of the Iraqi aggressors were killed or wounded; the bloodstained corpses of the Iraqis were scattered all over the battlefield.

During these enemy counterattacks, more than 20 tanks, heavy self-propelled carriers, and a quantity of heavy arms were destroyed and some RPG-7's, mortar launchers, rifles, Katyushas, and some Kalashnikovs fell into the hands of the Islamic soldiers as booty.

Also, three Iraqi aircraft, at 1410 and 1420 hours yesterday afternoon, intending to bombard the scene of the Val-Fajr V operation, were forced to flee without performing any kind of operation by the firing of the defense forces of the ever-vigilant Islamic forces.

Iraqi Airspace Violations Described

Tehran 17 February

LD180409 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] An Iraqi MIG-25 flying at an extremely high altitude violated Tehran airspace at 2245 last night. This plane, followed by the fast-flying fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, broke the sound barrier as it was flying away. The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran immediately declared a red alert as soon as the violation was reported. Tehran's electricity supply was cut too. It should be noted that such flights of high altitude are of no military value.

The Central News Unit also reports that the planes of the Zionist enemy twice violated the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intending to bomb the residential districts of Ahvaz. However, they were forced to flee because of the defensive fire of the combatants of Islam. During the past 3 days, the planes of the Zionist enemy have tried to bomb [as heard] the cities of Mehran, Gilan-e Gharb, Khorramabad, Abadan, and Khorramshahr, which resulted in the martyrdom of some of our compatriots and injury to a number of others.

Ilam, Khorramabad

LD190320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Despite the propaganda campaign launched by the Zionist regime of Iraq that it would not attack residential areas, at 1403 yesterday, three aggressive Iraqi planes violated the airspace of Ilam; however, they were forced to fly off as a result of the timely fire by antiaircraft defense units before they were able to attempt anything.

At 1416 yesterday, an enemy plane appeared in the Khorramabad sky but it was forced to flee by the timely fire of the defenders of the Islamic Revolution.

IRNA: Iraq Shells Cities Despite Claims of Refraining

LD182102 Tehran IRNA in English 2015 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Ahvaz, Feb. 18, IRNA — Despite the Iraqi false claims of refraining from attacking the Iranian cities, the city of Abadan and Khorramshahr were subjected to heavy artillery fire, Friday night and this morning. As a result of the Iraqi attacks several residential units in the two cities were damaged.

Iraqis Fleeing Shelled Towns for Holy Cities

LD180648 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Following the retaliatory attacks by the combatants of Islam and the shelling of Iraqi towns after the rocket attacks by the Zionist regime of Iraq on residential parts of our towns and after the announcement by the Islamic Republic of Iran that four holy cities of Iraq were exempt from the attacks of the combatants of Islam, the cities of Karbala' and An-Nataf have been experiencing a noticeable increase in their population during the past 3 days. Also, following our pilots' bombing of military installations and economic centers in the town of 'Ali al-Gharbi situated in the Iraqi Governorate of Maysan between Al-Kut and Al-'Amarah, the speedy migration of the people of this town has been intensified. According to reports received, because of the bombing of 'Ali al-Gharbi yesterday and execution of fire on the Al-Kut, 'Ali al-Gharbi-al-'Amarah roads, the rest of the people left in 'Ali al-Gharbi do not have much time left to leave. According to a report, a large number of people are at present leaving 'Ali al-Gharbi.

After the migration of people of Iraq from various cities toward the holy cities, the border between Kuwait and Iraq is being closely watched by the border officials of both countries. But passengers arriving in Kuwait have said that they were able to cross the border after paying considerable bribes to the border officials.

Agencies have reported that the Sheraton Hotel in Basra was demolished as a result of shelling by the combatants of Islam on Wednesday, as confessed by Iraq. At present, travel fares and food prices have soared in several Iraqi towns.

Iraqi Council Head Appeal

LD190336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Baqir Hakim, spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, has asked all forces under the command of the Supreme Assembly in Iraq to form Islamic Revolution committees in order to cover and support the flight of the Iraqi refugees who are migrating from border towns to other points inside Iraq. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, who was speaking at a press conference in Havaz, said that Saddam is spending the last days of his life and asked the Iraqi Muslim mujahids to mount their armed operations all over Iraq against the Zionist regime of Iraq to coincide with the start of the heroic operations of the combatants of Islam on the fronts.

Thousands Sent to Fronts for 'Last' Confrontation

LD180315 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Following the courageous attack by the powerful forces of Islam at the heart of the Ba'thist Zionist forces of Iraq in the Val-Fajr V operational region and in order to confront the enemy for the last time, volunteers are continually dispatched to the war fronts.

In this connection, 4,000 volunteers from Jerusalem Battalions, including the 1st Brigades of (?Meqdad), (Abuzar), (Malek Ashtar), (Abolfazl), and Salman Parsi Divisions and several battalions from the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Brigade [as heard] yesterday morning left for the fonts of the war of light against darkness amid the chanting of slogans by the hezbollahi people after having participated in the Friday prayers at Tehran University.

In addition, more than 8,000 selfless personnel of the mobilization force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Khorasan Province and several thousand others from the cities of Mashhad, Rasht, Bandar (Anzali), Rud Sar, Lahijan, (Hashtsar), (Some'eh-sara), Yazd, Qom, Nurabad, Sari, Esfahan, (Mamasani), and Astara left for the war fronts after the Friday prayers and received an enthusastic send-off from the people of these cities.

Further Departures

LD181803 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] In order to deal the last blow to the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime, 5,000 members of the Jerusalem Battalions from Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces, who have participated in the Labbayk Ya Khomeyni and Jerusalem Liberation Maneuvers, left for the battlefronts of right against wrong after a special ceremony.

Another 2,000 from the cities of Gorgan, Gonbad, (Rameyan), (Azad Shahr), (Minodasht), Kalaleh, Kordkuy, (Bandar-e Turkman), and Bandar-e Gaz and more than 1,600 from the cities of Ramsar, (Tunekabon), (Juybar), 'Abasabad, (Salmanshahr), (Gologah-e Behshahr), Rostamkala, and Amol, as well as three combat battalions consisting of permanent and volunteer forces from [word indistinct] a large number of self-sacrificing members of the Revolution GuardsCorps' mobilization of [word indistinct] district and a number of Qom seminary students and tens of brothers and members of Islamic associations and students from (Rudbar-e Alamut) left for the country's war regions yesterday following Friday prayers and a special ceremony.

Three organized battalions from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps 77th Jerusalem Division of Kashan, two organized battalions from Labbayk Ya Khomeyni project in Bushehr, a number of Khorramabad's Islamic Corps' combatants, a large number of volunteers from Hamzeh Headquarters, and the Islamic Revolution Corps' 11th Region and one group from (Boyer Ahmad) left for the battlefronts today following special ceremonies.

On the basis of this report, another two groups of crusaders of Dashtestan's Reconstruction Crusade, including mechanics, assistant mechanics, servicemen, heavy and light vehicle drivers, builders, relief workers, medical assistants, and a number of crusaders from Kangan left for the battlefront.

Also leaving for the battlefronts, fully equipped, were members of Reconstruction Crusade from (Koh Keyloyeh) and Boyer Ahmad Province cities of (Yasuj), (Gachsaran), and (Dehdasht), who are experienced in health, engineering, transport, and maintenance.

Large Groups of Specialists

LD200330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Our courageous youths still continue to leave for the fronts of the war against the Zionist enemy. In this connection, during the past few days, large groups of the selfless personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from Central [Tehran], Khuzestan, Fars, Bushehr, Hormozgan, Lorestan, Yazd, Gilan, Mazandaran, Khorasan, Kohkiluyeh va Boyerahmad, Baluchestan va Sistan, Kerman, Hamadan, Semnan, Bakhtiari va Chahar Mahall, Western and Eastern Azarbayjan, and Shahr-e Kord provinces [as heard] left for the battle fronts. Also, during this period, large groups of brothers specialized in reconstruction and building left for the fronts from various cities in order to help the combatants of Islam behind the frontline and also to reconstruct the war-devastated towns.

Guards Corps, Iraqi Group Request Volunteers

LD201729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the mobilization unit of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq issued a statement which reads in part:

At a time when the war imposed by world arrogance upon the Islamic Revolution is passing through critical stages, we invite our fighting Iraqi brothers to get in touch with the mobilization centers of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq that are in Tehran or other cities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to be sent to the battlefronts of the war between truth and falseshood, to crush the declining regime of Saddam, and to liberate the holy Islamic land of Iraq from the filthy existence of the Saddamists.

Appointment of Construction Jihad Minister Approved

LD201136 Tehran IRNA in English 0944 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 20, IRNA — The appointment of Mr Bizhan Namdar- Zangeneh to the post of Construction Jihad Ministry by Prime Minister Musavi was approved in the open session of the Majlis today.

However, Mr. Musavi's two other nominations for the Housing and Information Ministry posts, Mr. Mohammad Hasan Tehraninezhad and Hojjat ol-Eslam Isma'il Ferdowsipur, did not receive the needed votes for ratification.

The three nominations were proposed to the Majlis by Prime Minister Musavi with the approval of President Khamene'i on Sunday.

The new construction jihad minister received 110 votes for, 19 votes against with 34 abstentions, Mr. TehraniNezhad received 78 for, 36 against with 54 abstentions, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Ferdowsipur received 74 votes for, 47 against with 40 abstentions.

There were 191 deputies present at the Majlis proceedings, some of whom did not vote.

Biography of New Minister

GF201718 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA — Bizhan Namdar-Zangeneh, the first Construction Jihad minister, was born in Bakhtaran west Iran in 1952. He completed primary school and his first year in high school there and then migrated to Tehran where he received his high school diploma.

In 1971 he entered the technical college of Tehran University and received his masters in civil engineering six years later with distinction.

During his university years he was active in religious and political circles and has a firm belief in the struggle against the shah's regime with the help of committed religious elements.

Mr Zanganeh gave a positive response to Imam Khomeyni's call to leave the Shah's army during the Islamic Revolution and after the victory of the revolution he joined the academic staff of the work university. At the same time he regularly took part in executive and cultural activities in the Construction Jihad.

In 1980, soon after the premiership of the late martyr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, he was appointed cultural deputy of the Islamic Guidance Ministry and was highly influential in the ministry's planning affairs according to the needs of the Islamic Republic and took part in efforts to purge liberal and conciliatory individuals there.

One of his important tasks in the ministry was the establishment of a central department for the gathering, preserving and printing of documents concerning the Islamic Revolution, including volumes of Imam Khomeyni's statements and announcements, many of which have already been printed.

In Novemebr 1982 he was invited by the members of the Construction Jihad and became a member of its Central Committee through the appointment of Prime Minister Musavi.

Mr Zanganeh is married and has one child.

IRNA: French Police Arrest Iranian Students
LD190953 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Paris, Feb. 19 IRNA — French police Saturday morning surrounded the largest students dormitory in Paris and arrested a number of Iranian and Arab students. This measure by French authorities was a new phase in their efforts to suppress freedom of expression by supporters of Islamic revolution in this country.

Thirteen Iranian Muslim students were expelled by the Socialist government of Francois Mitterrand about two and a half months ago, and recently Muslim Iranians and supporters of the Islamic revolution were prevented from celebrating the fifth anniversary of the victory of the revolution and hundreds of them were arrested.

The action of French police and security agents Saturday morning reflects also the continuing hostility of that government vis-a-vis Islam and the struggle of awakened Muslims.

Some Arab students protesting the inhuman measure of French police were also arrested. The number of arrested students is not yet known.

ANATOLIA: Iranian-Iraqi Diplomats Exchanged
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[Text] Istanbul, 19 Feb (AA) — Iran and Iraq exchanged two diplomats at Istanbul's Yesilkoy Airport two nights ago, it was confirmed by sources in Istanbul.

Iranian diplomat Hassan Cheragh was flown in from Baghdad while Iraqi diplomat Saif Aldain Ahmad was flown in from Tehran to be exchanged by consular officials of the two countries at Yesilkoy around 20:30 Friday evening under strict security measures by Turkish police. The two men will be taken to their home countries soon, sources said.

Consular officials of Iran and Iraq refused to comment on the exchange.